Le·Hi·Ho·News

May 1983 Vol. XIV, No. 4 The Lehigh Valley Homophile Association

Domestic Violence,

our hidden shame

The problem of domestic violence in gay and lesbian relationships was brought out at a recent Le-Hi-Ho meeting by Barbara Hart of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Bonnie McDonald, Executive Director of Turning Point, a local center for victims of abuse.

Most of what is known about domestic violence comes from studies of straights. Additionally, most help services have been provided primarily for women by women who have been themselves victims of abuse. The idea of the abused gay male is new and far from popular, which makes it all the harder for abused gay men to seek help. After all, gay men are supposed to love each other or at least, as men, be able to protect themselves. But this is not always true.

a personal view

I've been trying to understand how and why I became the "victim" in a battering relationship. John (not his real name) and I had been together for years. We owned a house, car, truck and trailer jointly. In fact, we were considered "happily married."

Yet I felt isolated and limited. John had a poor self-image. To bolster his ego he found it necessary to pick on me and constantly put me down as stupid and incompetent. His need to belittle others had alienated friends and relatives. I had at times tried to make changes, but the fighting and nagging would go on for days and it was easier to do things his way.

So we arrived at our tenth year. I had become a very cold, hard person. Feeling powerless to change my situation I be-

cont.

A Local L & GCC?

The possibility of a local lesbian and gay community center was discussed at the March meeting of Le-Hi-Ho. From that came an April task force meeting of invited gay men and women known for their community support with Tony Silvestre, gay activist from Philadelphia. Tony discussed the Philly L & GCC and the need to respond to real needs of the community. "We pay $1,000 a month in rent and the community center stays empty most nights. We're most successful when we listen to needs and

cont.

Next Meeting

Self-Defense for Men and Women will be presented by Hal Monk, local self-defense expert. Mr. Monk will present ways to defend yourself if you are in a physically threatening situation. Monk emphasizes not only physical preparation but the correct mental preparation as well. Wear exercise clothes as you won't just be sitting down.

Sunday, May 22, 2 p.m. at the Unitarian Church in Bethlehem, located two blocks south of the 1500 block of Broadway on Lechauweki Avenue in Fountain Hill.

LETTERS

Two friends and I recently attended one of the monthly meetings of Le-Hi-Ho and were surprised to find so few lesbians in attendance, especially in view of the fact that there are so many of us.

Le-Hi-Ho is not just for the men. We lesbians, also, are a part but we need to make a better showing.

Why not come to the next meeting and offer your ideas of what you would like to do as a member of this group. Le-Hi-Ho is anxious for fresh ideas for activities that can involve everyone.

We found the speaker to be very informative last month and the social time afterward to be very friendly.

We'll be there this month. Won't you?

Paula Weber

I just read your impassioned plea for support in the latest (March) issue of the Newsletter. I can offer a lot of sympathy and a little advice: save your ink!

In my one and a half years as a board member, I watched myself turn from a community oriented individual into a person who simply cannot care if the Lehigh Valley gay community exists or not.

I got so tired of hearing guys who attended one meeting say that Le-Hi-Ho is a bunch of lechers waiting to pounce on new meat. That new person was mistaking a friendly introduction for a pass. Every person feels a sense of community as he enters the meeting room. However, one is apt to forget the only thing we have in common is our preference for members of the same sex.

The new format of the Newsletter is very interesting and informative. I think it may get people interested in coming to meetings. Keep in mind that although the gay "community" is one-tenth the size of the straight world, we are just as diverse and complex. The best of causes fail a good part of the time in the Lehigh Valley. People are very much into themselves. LHH has survived for 11 or 12 years--not bad considering that gays are not welcomed with outstretched arms.

Keep up the good work. Try to cope with your frustration and put it into perspective.

Ed Hill

By Line

Plan on being in New York City on Sunday, June 26 for Gay Pride Day. This will be the June meeting of Le-Hi-Ho. A bus will be available. Tickets are $20 and a box lunch is included. The bus will leave at 10 a.m. from the 13th Street Pub in Easton and will return from New York by 10 p.m., leaving plenty of time to parade and have fun. This year the march will go from Central Park south to Christopher Street. Wear good walking shoes. Reservations must be made and paid for by May 22 by calling 867-7286 or sending your money to Le-Hi-Ho, Box 1003, Bethlehem 18016. Show your pride in being gay.

The News received a letter from a New York foundation addressed to Mr. L. H. Ho, which began, Dear Mr. Ho. Ah so.

Le-Hi-Ho-News

Editor: Donald Graves
Advertising: Keith S.

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Articles may be submitted but will only be returned when accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The Newsletter reserves the right to edit or reject unsolicited materials for any reason.

Domestic Violence, our hidden shame (cont.)

A clear distinction must be made between abuse and S & M. S & M is a consensual, sexual activity mutually enjoyed, whereas domestic violence involves a batterer seeking control over a victim through fear, pain or the threat of pain.

The batterer is a bully who batters because he or she gets away with it, because it works to shore up what is likely an insecure, threatened personality, needing control to feel capable of coping. It is this inability to cope appropriately, not drugs or alcohol or the bad economy that helps to make a batterer.

In a battering relationship, there is usually a sense of ownership, where one person feels justified in using violence to control another. Often the victim is physically stronger than the batterer, and the dynamics of the intimate relationship may be quite different from that perceived by the community.

This is not to say that the victim is completely guiltless of provocation or in letting the abuse continue. Relationships are rarely so neatly defined. Victims can stay for many reasons: mutual financial obligations, fear of peer pressure, fear of retaliation or they may be, in some way, a kind of batterer themselves. However, it is more common for "victims to feel there is some kind of inherent defect that causes them to be unlovable and that no one else would love them if they left."

The important thing to remember in an abusive relationship, whether a lover, parent or child, is that you don't have to take it. The victim's earliest responses to violence are most important. It cannot be forgiven or else it will happen again. A written contract can be drawn up between the two stating exactly what steps will be taken if it happens again.

Even if the relationship has been abusive for some time, you still don't have to take it. This doesn't mean you have to leave the person, but you can deal with it. 876 people were helped by Turning Point last year, including four men and three lesbians. Turning Point offers a 24 hour hotline, counseling and shelter. It is a safe place for someone in an emergency. The hotline number is 437-3369. For a booklet describing Turning Point's services, write them at P.O. Box 1705, Allentown, PA 18105.

The Pennsylvania Protection from Abuse Act of 1976 was specifically written to cover straight and gay abuse. For more information, write Barbara Hart, 524 McKnight St., Reading, PA 19601.

A Local L & GCC? (cont.)

meet them." Such examples include support groups for older gay men and women, married gays and lesbians, AA groups and Black and White Men Together.

Women at the task force meeting commented on the fragmented local lesbian community. "There are very few lesbian women who are out and most of them are political, coming out at N.O.W."

A community center could serve many functions, including providing space for support groups, counseling, a coffee house, fund raisers, lectures, films, programs, a library and a gallery for gay and lesbian artists. It would be a safe place to meet.

Money and space are the two critical issues. An initial fundraiser is planned to judge community support. Without this support in terms of money and volunteer time, the center won't have a door to open. If support is here, then space, small at first, will be looked for in Allentown, chosen for its central location.

NEW HOURS

STONEWALL

28:30 n.10 st. allentown, pa.18101. 215,432:0706

Mon. thru Fri.
7:30pm - 2:00am

Sat. 4:00pm - 2:00am

Mon., Tue. & Thur.
1/2 price till 11:00

Wed. 1/2 price till 12:00

ask Mr. Mike

Dear Mr. Mike:

Le-Hi-Ho had a march down Hamilton Mall a few years ago and people took photos of it. I'd like to see those photographs. Where could I find them?

Robert B.

Dear Robert:

Le-Hi-Ho doesn't have a file on past goings on in the area, so any photos that might exist are privately owned. With the new gay community center will come such a file for our activities. At that time, a call will go out to collect things of interest that have happened and perhaps the photos you seek will turn up then.

Dear Mr. Mike:

I have been living with my lover for a few years now and although we have a good relationship, I feel the need to meet other people and form intimate relationships which would include sex. It's not like my lover isn't enough, but there is so much I'd like to share and learn from others. What should I do?

Gary

Dear Gary:

Unfortunately, many gay couples copy straight couples and feel that their relationship isn't "real" unless they remain monogamous and often end up hating each other for their shortcomings. Your relationship will be healthier if you do reach out to other people because you'll learn more about yourself and your needs by their reactions to you. Discuss it with your lover, and as long as you give him the lion's share of your time and love, there shouldn't be any problem.

a personal view (cont.)

came resentful and nasty. The floodgates of venom finally flew open. "I don't love you anymore!" I shouted at him, and moved out of our bedroom.

John was as furious as I was determined. The life that he had painstakingly built was falling apart. He was scared enough to try to communicate with me, but I wouldn't hold still long enough to listen.

I started doing to him what he had always done to me, verbally tearing him up, making him feel inferior and stupid. Since he did not feel self-confident, this pushed him over the edge. He began to physically restrain me from going out. He would deliver ultimatums and I would laugh at them; that's when he began to be abusive. John said that I should get out if I did not want him or our relationship. I felt that everything was half mine and that I had a right to live there. One night after months of arguments and violence, we had a particularly brutal fight during which John came after me with a butcher knife. I ran for my life and only returned for my clothes while he was at work the next day.

Who was the real "victim" here? Two people created a life together: one considered it good, one did not; one was shattering the links in the chain, while the other tried desperately to hold the broken pieces together. I was creating a new life for myself--at the expense of my old life and my old lover. I did not allow John any valid avenues of recourse. He could not compete verbally with me. I ripped him to shreds without ever laying a hand on him.

Isn't that battering? Didn't we both abuse each other? Who is to blame, me for wanting to be a whole person, or John for needing to have total control?

Any kind of abuse is unhealthy and dangerous. We need to prevent battering and to do so unsuccessfully we have to consider the causes. Then, if constructive steps cannot be taken, i.e. counseling, therapy, etc., one of the persons involved must leave to put an end to the violence. While this may seem an impossible hurdle at the time, hindsight has shown me that it was actually easier than staying in the destructive environment. While I remained there, we were both "victims."

P.A.

CANDIDA

247 N. 12th. Allentown, Pa.

3rd Anniversary Party

Sunday - May 22nd

Free Punch & Buffett

No Cover Charge

2pm - 2am

CALENDAR

May 19, Thursday
Easton NOW meeting, Easton National Bank, 7:30 p.m.

May 22, Sunday
Metropolitan Community Church, #5 Cambridge Place, Catasauqua, 1 p.m.
Le-Hi-Ho, Self-Defense for Men and Women, Unitarian Church, Bethlehem, 2 p.m.

May 26, Thursday
Full Moon Party with buffet, 13th Street Pub, Easton. Tickets available, 252-9213.

May 29, Sunday (addition)
Sherry and her fabulous Grapevine Revue. Odyssey, 427 Cookman Ave., Asbury Park, NJ

June 12, Sunday
MCC, #5 Cambridge Place, Catasauqua, 1 p.m.

Continuing:

Tuesdays
Alcoholics Anonymous, Church of the Mediator, Allentown, 8:30 p.m.

Wednesdays
Happy Hour, 10 - 12 p.m., 13th St. Pub, Easton.

Saturdays
Happy Hour, 5 - 7 p.m., 13th St. Pub, Easton.
Stonewall Tea Dance, 4 - 9 p.m., ½ price drinks.
Candida's, 2 for 1 plus clam special, 2 - 5 p.m.

Donald Graves M.S.

Counseling for the Gay Community.

867-7286

A support group for men over 35 is now forming.

CARDS TO FIT YOUR LIFESTYLE

Fantasies

CONTEMPORARY CARDS-N-GIFTS

744 HAMILTON MALL
ALLENTOWN, PA 18101
(215) 432-4744

15% Discount with this ad

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Call Barry Malkenes
776-0636
after 5 p.m.

RESOURCES

BARS

Candida's, 247 N. 12th St., Allentown

Rosemary's, 2327 Hanover Ave., Allentown

The Stonewall, 28 N. 10th St., Allentown

The 13th Street Pub, 130 S. 13th St., Easton. With kosher style deli.

BUSINESSES

Alternative Booksellers, 10 N. 4th St., Reading (Feminist and lesbian)

Giovanni's Room, 12th and Pine Sts., Philadelphia (Gay/feminist/lesbian books)

SERVICE AND AID

Michael A. Abgott, M.D., 1545 Broadway, Bethlehem, 865-6112. General practice.

Alcoholics Anonymous, the Rainbow Group for gays only, Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m., at the Church of the Mediator, 16th and Turner Sts., Allentown.

Allentown Health Clinic, 437-7760.

Bethlehem Health Clinic, 865-7087. (sexually transmitted diseases)

Confront, Inc., 1130 Walnut St., Allentown, 433-0148. Counseling, group therapy and other specialized services.

Dr. David Davis, D.O., Limekiln and Pine Run Roads, Doylestown, 438-9711.

Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 437-0801. Out-patient counseling for alcohol and drug problems, primarily for Lehigh County residents.

Family Counseling Service, c/o Jack Diamond, 520 E. Broad St., Bethlehem, 867-3946. Individual, couple and family counseling.

Donald Graves, M.S., 867-7286. Counseling for the gay community; individual, family and groups.

Nick Guzzi, 437-1750. Bisexual and gay counseling for men and women; gender reidentification for pre and post operative transsexuals.

Keenan House, 114 N. 9th St., Allentown, 439-7489. Residential drug and alcohol services.

Lehigh County Drug and Alcohol Intake Unit, 432-2228.

Jacqueline Marish, B.A./Constance Woodring, M.S.W., 865-1006 or 346-8380. Feminist counseling specializing in domestic abuse. Offices in Northampton and Bucks Counties.

Rape Crisis Council, 437-6611. For youth, men and women.

Mollie Rubenstein, M.S.W., 867-6542. Short and long term counseling.

Turning Point, Inc., 437-0222. Counseling, emergency shelter and advocacy for men and women victims of domestic violence.

Valley Wide Help, 435-7111. Referral line.

Valley Youth House, 539 8th Ave., Bethlehem, 691-1200. Food, shelter andcounseling for youth in need of emergency services.

CENTERS

Women, Inc., 519 Linden St., Allentown, 776-1300. A multi-service center including drop-in services, counseling, social activities and support.

ORGANIZATIONS

Le-Hi-Ho, P.O. Box 1003, Bethlehem 18016. Gay and lesbian group with social activities, monthly meetings and newsletter.

Muhlenberg Gay Student Union, Box E-90, Faculty Muhlenberg College, Allentown 18104. Support group for college age gay men and women.

NEWSLINE

. . . Sister Boom Boom received 23,124 votes in the San Francisco Board of Supervisors election. Sister Boom Boom is a member of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, an order of habited gay men in California, New Orleans and Toronto. The mission of the Sisters is to increase sexual pleasure while decreasing sexual guilt, the opposite of more traditional orders. Sister Boom Boom is so pleased with her showing that she plans on running for mayor.

. . . Eight leading law schools, including Harvard, Yale and UCLA, are continuing to ban recruitment by employers that discriminate against gays, including the U.S. Army. The National Gay Task Force (NGTF) and the Lambda Legal Defense are prepared to assist the schools in court cases preventing the cut-off of Defense Department contracts in retaliation for upholding anti-discriminatory policies.

Lambda Alive is a new gay group in Berks County. It's nice to see them organizing over there. Originally for women only, the word is now that gay men are invited as well. For information, write P.O. 42, Alburn, PA 17922.

A recent article by Ralph White in RFD, the country magazine for gay men, concerns illness and death in gay relationships. Without contractual protection, a gay man or woman has no legal right to see his or her lover in intensive care or to have power of attorney if a lover is incapacitated. For 50 ¢ and a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope, Mr. White will mail forms you and your lover can sign in the presence of a notary to protect you both. His address is 428 N. 31st St., Philadelphia, PA 19104.

. . . NGTF also has a national Crisisline as part of its efforts to document violence against gays. In its first three months of operation, over 791 calls were received from 43 states, including many inquiring about AIDS. The number is 800-221-7044, 3 - 9 p.m.

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads are limited to 25 words. The cost is $3 for one month. Buy three months and get the fourth month free. We reserve the right to refuse and edit ads. Help Wanted ads must be non-sexist and non-racist. Ads are accepted in the following categories: Help Wanted, For Sale, For Rent, Personal, Roommates, Friends/Men and Friends/Women.

A mail forwarding service is available for an additional $1 per issue. We will give you a number and forward mail to you once a week in a sealed business envelope.

To answer an ad with a number, write it on the envelope along with the address: P.O. Box 1003, Bethlehem, 18016. We will forward it free of charge, confidentially and unopened. Please use a personal size envelope.

PERSONAL

Tom, come back. I didn't mean it. Forgive me. Greg.

FRIENDS/MEN

White male, 35, would like to meet white male 18 - 35 with slim, sexy build for friendship and loving. Enclose photo if available. Write today! CA 37

The 13th St. Pub

252-9213
130 S. 13th St.
Easton, PA

And Restaurant

Open Sunday

Menu available daily until 2 a.m.
Featuring Kosher Style Deli, plus

5/26 - Full Moon Party with buffet
Tickets available

HAPPY HOURS
WEDNESDAYS 10 - 12 p.m.
SATURDAYS 5 - 7 p.m.

ID required

WHAT'S

The Scoop

5 South 8th Street, Allentown, Pa. 432-3878

The Scoop is a restaurant dedicated to nutritious food and good taste. Delicious vegetarian and meat pita sandwiches, homemade soups, salads and Quiches are just a few of our menu features.

The Scoop also offers the largest selection of Haggen-Dazs ice cream in the Lehigh Valley. Design your own sundae or try a sinfully rich "CHOCOLATE FREAK OUT".

The Scoop is conveniently located in downtown Allentown a few steps south of Hamilton Mall on 8th Street. Enjoy a leisurely lunch beneath our sidewalk canopy or take advantage of our fast take out service when you're in a hurry.

Hours

WINTER (10/31 to 4/14)					
Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
11-9	11-7	11-7	11-9	11-7	11-5:30

SUMMER (4/15 to 11/1)					
Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
11-9					

The Scoop

5 South 8th St., Allentown **432-3878**

FREE Soup or Salad with the purchase of any Pita Wedge

for Eat-In or Take-Out